



COLORADO CROP PROGRESS

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
COLORADO FIELD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 150969 · Lakewood, CO 80215-0969



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2023

Contact: Rodger Ott
(800) 392-3202

CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING JULY 16, 2023

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: The western portion of the State realized another week of dry conditions, while the eastern half of the State experienced scattered moisture, according to the Mountain Region Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association data, a few southeastern counties received over two inches of moisture, with portions of Baca, Bent and Las Animas Counties accumulating more than three inches of rain. The U.S. Drought Monitor published on July 13 presented the State remained drought free. According to the High Plains Regional Climate Center, cooler than average temperatures continued across the eastern portion of the State, the western portion experienced above average temperatures, and areas in the south-central counties realized temperatures more than six degrees above normal. Maximum temperatures ranged from over 100 degrees in Pueblo County to high-70's in the high country of Eagle and Summit Counties. Dry conditions continued in the northwestern area of the State. Significant hailstorms across the northeastern plains have affected the condition of many crops. Reports from Phillips and Sedgwick Counties stated the corn crop was severely affected and isolated wheat fields had been destroyed. Yuma County reporters noted wheat harvest began in the county, and the potato acreage had been damaged by repeated hailstorms. The San Luis Valley remained primarily dry, and pasture conditions have declined due to lack of consistent moisture. Crops in the district were slightly stressed but were in overall good condition.

First cutting alfalfa harvest is almost complete, with 95 percent harvested and most acreage that remains to be harvested was in the northwest corner of the State. The second cutting significantly trailed the previous year and 5-year average, with 13 percent harvested, compared with 25 percent last year and a 5-year average of 36 percent. Barley progress across the State lagged the normal pace, with 83 percent headed and 22 percent colored. Dry edible bean emergence is virtually complete and the blooming phase has begun, with 6 percent of the crop bloomed, behind both the previous year and 5-year average. Planting of the proso millet crop in the eastern portion of the State is wrapping up, with 96 percent of intended acreage planted. Progress of the winter wheat crop sustained a slower than average pace, with 93 percent of the acreage colored, behind of the 5-year average of 98 percent, and 79 percent of the crop in the mature stage, compared with the 5-year average of 90 percent. Winter wheat harvest progressed quickly last week among mostly dry conditions, with 20 percent of the crop harvested by week's end, significantly trailing the previous year of 53 percent and 5-year average of 60 percent. Statewide, 62 percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 59 percent last week, and 7 percent last year. Condition ratings in East Central Colorado, where the largest portion of the winter wheat crop is produced, were mostly fair to good, with isolated ratings of poor due to recent storms. Stored feed supplies were rated 1 percent very short, 28 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 6 percent surplus. Cattle death loss was 1 percent heavy, 60 percent average, and 39 percent light. Sheep death loss was 80 percent average and 20 percent light.

CROP PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
1 st cutting harvested	95	88	96	98
2 nd cutting harvested.....	13	5	25	36
Barley				
Headed.....	83	72	93	92
Turning color	22	11	16	25
Corn				
Silked	5	--	19	18
Dry edible beans				
Emerged.....	98	93	96	98
Blooming	6	NA	13	23
Proso Millet				
Planted	96	84	100	100
Sorghum				
Emerged.....	98	95	98	97
Winter wheat				
Coloring.....	93	90	99	98
Mature	79	58	93	90
Harvested.....	20	1	53	60

NA – not available
(--)- zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork.....	5.7	4.8	6.2	6.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	2	2	23	20
Short.....	7	6	47	32
Adequate	69	78	30	47
Surplus	22	14	--	1
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	2	3	40	23
Short.....	12	8	42	33
Adequate	69	78	18	43
Surplus	17	11	--	1

NA – not available
(--)- zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
Very poor.....	8	4	3	6
Poor.....	9	6	5	10
Fair.....	24	22	32	24
Good.....	50	56	49	47
Excellent.....	9	12	11	13
Barley				
Very poor.....	--	1	4	3
Poor.....	--	1	5	4
Fair.....	16	14	30	27
Good.....	58	56	43	45
Excellent.....	26	28	18	21
Corn				
Very poor.....	1	2	2	3
Poor.....	7	10	14	10
Fair.....	18	13	40	28
Good.....	57	60	29	45
Excellent.....	17	15	15	14
Dry edible beans				
Very poor.....	2	2	--	7
Poor.....	5	3	16	16
Fair.....	18	8	23	26
Good.....	71	82	34	38
Excellent.....	4	5	27	13
Onions				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	1
Poor.....	--	--	2	4
Fair.....	42	37	35	27
Good.....	31	26	55	62
Excellent.....	27	37	7	6
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	2	1	16	14
Poor.....	2	3	27	19
Fair.....	22	28	26	27
Good.....	40	49	25	34
Excellent.....	34	19	6	6
Potatoes inside San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	--	--	2	1
Poor.....	3	6	3	5
Fair.....	17	21	20	20
Good.....	55	46	57	52
Excellent.....	25	27	18	22
Potatoes outside the San Luis Valley				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	10	--	--	2
Fair.....	10	--	40	25
Good.....	80	100	60	59
Excellent.....	--	--	--	13
Sorghum				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	4
Poor.....	6	8	14	10
Fair.....	11	10	47	34
Good.....	73	73	33	45
Excellent.....	10	9	5	7
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	1
Poor.....	--	5	--	4
Fair.....	26	35	40	26
Good.....	57	45	40	52
Excellent.....	17	15	20	17
Sunflower				
Very poor.....	--	--	3	2
Poor.....	1	1	8	7
Fair.....	5	3	61	39
Good.....	76	86	23	49
Excellent.....	18	10	5	3
Winter wheat				
Very poor.....	3	2	35	NA
Poor.....	11	12	32	NA
Fair.....	24	27	26	NA
Good.....	43	48	7	NA
Excellent.....	19	11	--	NA
Livestock				
Very poor.....	1	1	--	2
Poor.....	1	2	7	6
Fair.....	12	22	23	20
Good.....	62	58	58	58
Excellent.....	24	17	12	14

NA – not available
 (--) – zero